# California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 1995 Volume 86 No.3 $1.50

# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

**May 2** ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Flower Arranging Class
Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Park. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Bring all materials. Call 298-5182. $15.

**May 6-7** **SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY** 30th Annual Spring Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon-5PM; Sun. 11AM-4PM. Free.

**May 6-7** **THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB** 61st Annual Flower Show & Plant Sale
1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Senior Ctr., Vista. Sat. 1:30-5PM; Sun 10AM-4PM. Call 727-5505. Free.

**May 6-7** **THE ARBORETUM of Los Angeles County** 25th Annual Baldwin Bonanza Plant Sale
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Sat. 10AM-3PM; Sun. 9AM-3PM. 818/447-8207. Admission $5.

**May 9** ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Basket Class
Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Park. Appalachian basket. 9:30AM-2:30PM Call 298-5182. $15.

**May 10** ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Bus Tour
The Arboretum of LA & San Gabriel Nursery. RSVP 232-5762. Member $39, Nonmember $42.

**May 13** **LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB** Annual Plant Sale
Home Savings Bank, 7777 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Sat. 9AM-2PM. Call 459-2825.

**May 13** **LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB** California Nativescapes Guided Tour
Wild Animal Park, Escondido. Meet at Klaas Ramada 10AM. 487-2269. Park admission fee.

**May 13-14** **DESCANSO GARDENS** International Geranium Society Show & Sale
1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada-Flintridge. Sat. Noon-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. 213/681-2201. $5.

**May 14** **SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY** 25th Mother's Day Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sun. 10AM-4:30PM. Free.

**May 14** **TEMECUALA VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY** Judged Rose Show
27349 Jefferson Ave. Sun. NOON-4:00PM. 909/699-4530. $2.00 includes light snack buffet.

**May 16** ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Basket Class 101
Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa park. Make up class for everyone. Call 298-5182. $5.

**May 20** **QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Garden Club Day
230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. Lecture/Demonstrations. Sat. 10AM-3PM. 436-3036. $2.

**May 20-21** **SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY** 20th Annual Show and Plant Sale
Casa del Prado, Rm. 104, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

**May 21** **THE HUNTINGTON** 21st Annual Benefit Plant Sale
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. 9AM-4PM. Rare & unusual plants. 818/405-2141. Gate donation.

**May 27-28** **BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK** Show
Casa del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park. Sat.11AM-4:30PM; Sun. 10AM-4:30PM Free.

**Jun. 1** **THE HUNTINGTON** First Thursday Garden Talk & Sale
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. "RX For A Healthier Garden." 2:30PM. 818/405-2141. $7.50.

**Jun. 3-4** **SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY** 27th Annual Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-5PM; Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

**Jun. 3-4** **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC.** Fuchsia Show & Sale
26300 Crenshaw Bl.,Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat.9AM-4PM; Sun.10AM-4PM. 310/544-1948.

**Jun. 5** ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Quarterly Meeting and Program
Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park. Dinner/Program 5:45PM. RSVP. 232-5762. $5, $6, & $7.50.

**Jun. 11** **SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY** 22nd Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sun. Noon-5PM. Free.

**Jun 15 - July 4** **DEL MAR FAIR** Flower & Garden Show "Petunias and Poultry"
Via de la Valle west to Fairgrounds. 9AM-10PM daily. Parking $3. General Admission $7.

**Jun. 17** **AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, Theodsia Burr Branch** Garden Tour
Private Garden. 94 N. Santa Rosa St., Ventura. Sat. Noon-4PM. Call 805/648-1530. Free.

**Jun. 17-18** **SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT** Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon-5PM; Sun. 10AM- 5PM. Free.

**Jun. 24-25** **SOUTH BAY BROMELIAD ASSOCIATION** Bromeliad Show and Plant Sale
26300 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes. Sat. Noon-4:30PM; Sun. 10AM-4:30PM. 818/787-4265. $5.

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Cover drawing of *Iris flavescens* by Jeanie Foord, 1906, reprinted from *Decorative Plants and Flower Studies*, Dover Publications. 1982.

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Every Day** | **THE ARBORETUM of Los Angeles County** Schedule of Events<br>301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. For information call 818/821-3222. |
| **Through Jun. 4** | **THE HUNTINGTON** The 75th Anniversary Exhibition<br>1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Call for Spring/Summer schedule 818/405-2141. Gate donation. |
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| **Every Tuesday** | **BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS** Ranger guided tours of Botanical/History of Park<br>Meet Balboa Park Visitor Center, Plaza de Panama. 10AM. Call 619/235-1121. Free. |

**Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Jul./Aug. issue is May 15.**
***SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.***

## FLORAL ART

HERE IS A PORTRAIT of a well prepared artist about to produce a living example of floral art. Floral arrangements used to brighten home, office, and/or floral shows encourage the use of our garden flowers, flowering shrubs and other foliage materials.

Arrangers are special people noting the beauty of twisted branches as well as unusual seed pods and materials that others may see as deformed. The Arrangement Section of our flower shows add incentive to the visitors to experiment with these materials to produce beauty in their own homes. Too many of our flower shows no longer have sections for these arrangements. I miss them. *Staff Written*

Photo of the pruner, thorn-stripper #7923 courtesy of Fiskars Inc.

"A Garden Takes Shape" *(continued from page 71)*

the blues, red, and lavenders, a splash of yellow provided by the Jerusalem sage *(Phlomis fruticosa)* and the yellow oleander *(Thevetia thevetioides)* adds a lively contrast.

No garden is complete without some consideration for fragrance. The *Gardenia veitchii* will encourage the visitor to linger and savor its sweet fragrance while the angelwing jasmine *(Jasminum nitidum)* has a more understated effect with its subtle fragrance. The warm summer sun will release the aromatic essences of the santolina and lavender (*Lavandula multifida)* pleasing the senses with their herbal fragrance.

In the end, the success of the design will be measured by how much the garden invites the owners to share special times with family and friends or moments of solitary pleasure as they are made aware of the many rich facets of nature's beauty. □

PAUL DEMARTINI is a member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego Floral Association and owns a landscape design and construction business.

# *IRIS*

## *by DOROTHY DRISCOLL*

THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF irises are the most commonly grown in the San Diego Area: tall bearded and two beardless — spuria and Louisiana. Each is beautiful in its own right. All have some similarities such as three standards (upper petals) and three falls (lower petals) with glorious color from the many varieties available.

If you never have grown the beardless types, you might like to give them a try. Irises are easy to grow in our climate and are very rewarding at bloom time when you can just sit back and enjoy the beauty of their display in your garden.

### TALL BEARDED

Probably the most popular and the best known of the iris family is the tall bearded iris. Everyone remembers these from their childhood as "blue flags." They have come a long, long way from those days. With several thousand varieties and flaring, billowing, ruffled forms, these modern irises have little in common with the flags other than the beards. There are even Space Age irises with beards ending in flounces, spoons, or horns.

Tall bearded irises grow best in full sun, but half a day is usually satisfactory. The bloom will be less in too much shade. They do not like wet feet and will rot if allowed to stand in water over a period of time. Therefore, good drainage is essential. Planting in a raised bed or in rows that are raised slightly can be helpful.

Before planting, dig the soil to 10 or 12 inches deep, working in well-decomposed manure or compost and a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 or one with less nitrogen. A teaspoonful of bonemeal may be placed in the bottom of each planting hole. Plant the rhizomes 12 to 18 inches apart and just barely cover with soil. For an immediate clump effect, plant three rhizomes in a circle 6 inches apart with toes pointed to the center. Water well and keep the plants moist but not real wet the first few weeks until new roots form. After becoming established, deep watering every other week is recommended.

In late January and again after the bloom period, superphosphate may be applied to encourage bloom. Rebloomers need more fertilizer if they are to perform well in the fall.

After about three years, the plants should be divided. Dig the entire clump and cut apart, keeping only the new fans around the outside of the clump. Fans may be cut back to about 6 inches. These can be replanted or give them as gifts to friends and neighbors. The best time to dig tall bearded irises is from July through September.

### SPURIA

Spuria irises are very prolific, growing from 4 to 5 feet tall with many blooms that are long lasting. These are a favorite of flower arrangers and are similar in looks to the Dutch iris. There are a great number of colors with many new combinations and shadings being introduced each year. Newer hybrids have ruffles and flaring falls.

Spurias prefer full sun but will do pretty well in partial shade. If the plants grow crooked stems and floppy fans, the plant is in too much shade. Although spurias like a lot of water during their growing season, they will rot in summer if given water when they are going dormant. It is best to just let them dry off until they start growing again in the fall.

Large clumps can grow in a fairly short time, so give them lots of room. They can be left undisturbed for several years by giving them plenty of well-decomposed manure and a balanced fertilizer at planting time. They should be fertilized regularly up to bloom time and after bloom — nothing during blooming or dormant periods. The fans should be cut back to about 6 or 8 inches in late summer when the foliage has dried somewhat.

The best time of the year to divide spurias is in October. Dig the entire clump and cut apart, discarding the old center section and keeping the new outside fans. The newly dug rhizomes should never be allowed to dry out. After digging, place them in a bucket of water until they can be replanted. They should be planted about two inches deep and a few feet apart. It is very important that the newly planted spurias be kept moist until well established. Then they are quite hardy and can stand considerable neglect.

### LOUISIANA

Louisianas may be grown in full sun or partial shade. Their vibrant colors will stay better with some shade. They love water and will grow in ponds, bogs, etc. If you have a spot in your garden where nothing else will grow because

(*continued on page 75*)

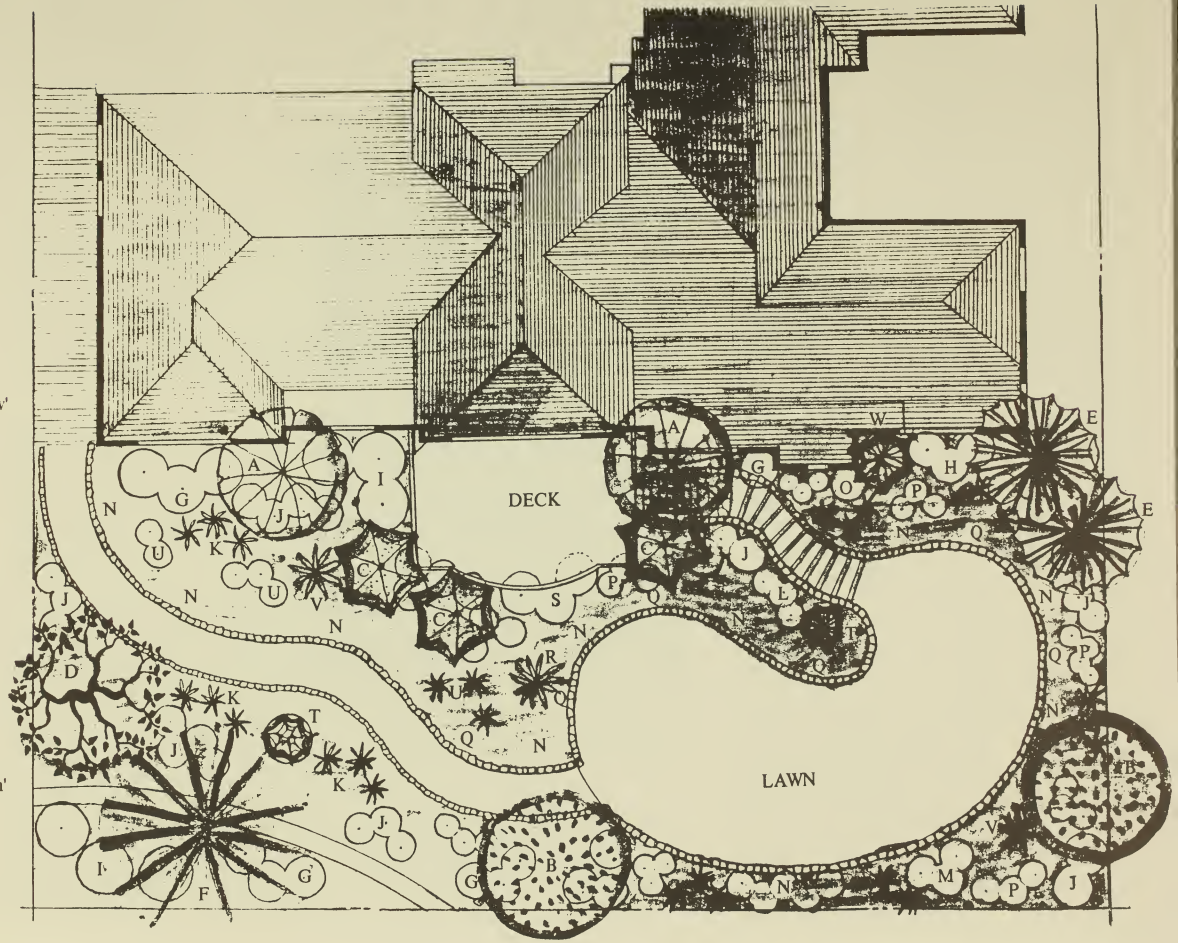
PLANT LIST

Trees:
A Pyrus kawakami
B Bauhinia blakeana
C Cassia splendida Std.
D Brachychiton acerifolia
E Liquidamber styraciflua
F Eucalyptus lehmanni (existing)

Shrubs:
G Alyogyne huegelii
H Hibiscus 'Red Dragon'
I Leptospermum scop. 'Ruby Glow'
J. Nerium oleander 'Petite Pink'

Low shrubs/ ground cover:
K Bougainvillea 'La Jolla'
L Bougainvillea 'Rasberry Ice'
M Gardenia veitchii
N Geranium incanum
O Jasminum nitidum
P Lavandula multifida
Q Santolina chamaecyparissus

Accents:
R Agave desmettiana
S Bauhinia galpinii
T Euphorbia m. 'Apache Red'
U Phlomis fruticosa
V Phormium tenax 'Maiori Maiden'
W Thevetia thevetioides



# A GARDEN TAKES SHAPE

*by PAUL DEMARTINI*

LANDSCAPE DESIGN IS NOT a pure art since the designer's first consideration is the needs of those who are to use a space. What makes the designer's job special is to satisfy these needs and at the same time weave the components into a rich tapestry of form, color, and texture. The final result is a space for outdoor living which surrounds the visitor with an unfolding display of nature's beauty.

The mission of this design found its focus in the newest member of the client's family: an infant son who was a prisoner in his own home. This was due to the fact that the house was situated on a strongly sloping site and as a result did not afford a level area in which to play and enjoy the outdoors. Other important site considerations focused upon the requirement for access from the deck area, a southwest exposure which would provide a hospitable environment for many heat loving subtropicals, and a 180 degree view of the Pacific Ocean with the village of La Jolla in the foreground.

The informality of a Mediterranean garden sets the mood of this seaside setting. The journey begins as the visitors step off the deck down a flight of steps; they come to a landing paved in flagstone which transitions into a set of garden steps which flow into an oasis of green lawn gently sloping to a level terraced area; all the while the panoramic view unfolds before the viewer. This flowing rhythm continues as we follow the pathway of decomposed granite leading to steps that provide access to the front of the house. Red Mountain ledger stone adds much to the atmosphere of the garden with its silver-blue color and rust highlights. It is used to construct the retaining walls as well as edge the steps and pathways.

In any garden trees play the dominant role. Their distinctive architecture commands our attention and their canopy often creates the effect of an outdoor room. The trees in this garden have been selected so that the viewer is captivated by their seasonal display. The evergreen pear *(Pyrus kawakamii)* inaugurates the year covered with delicate white flowers that contrast against the glossy, green leaves. As these fade, the Hong Kong orchid tree *(Bauhinia blakeana)* begins to reveal its 4″ wine-red orchid-like blossoms. In May and June the columnar Australian flame tree *(Brachychiton acerifolius)* takes center stage as it sheds its foliage and puts on a brilliant display of crimson-red flowers. Normally a quiet time of year, the senna *(Cassia splendida)* celebrates the fall season as it festoons the garden with 3″ golden-yellow blossoms that will continue on through December, only slightly overshadowing the striking fall foliage of the liquidambars (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).

A brief mention should be made regarding the placement of the trees. The evergreen pears and liquidambars were sited to soften the looming structure of the house as well as provide a transition of scale from the house to the garden. A similar effect was sought by placing the cassias around the deck providing a camouflage for the structure and at the same time an attractive element to be viewed from the deck above. The Hong Kong orchid trees help to frame the panoramic view and create a depth of field as they are silhouetted against the expanse. The Australian flame tree creates a view of its own as its tall columnar form commands the viewer's attention moving down the pathway.

For their part, the background shrubs do much to create the character of the garden by providing a backdrop for the accent and foreground plantings. For this garden, the background shrubs were chosen to create a sense of depth. The blue hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii)* was chosen for its silvery-blue flowers and deep-green, lacey foliage that gently recede from the viewer's eye. In a similar way the dark-olive leaves and the mute-crimson flowers of the New Zealand tea tree *(Leptospermum scoparium*) 'Ruby Glow' heighten the effect of the foreground plantings. These are rounded out by a hibiscus 'Red Dragon' whose lush, green foliage provides the perfect backdrop for a distinctive accent plant. Together the trees and background shrubs build up a depth of foliage which sets apart the garden area and develops its character and flavor.

The stage is now set to show off our accent plantings. Some are chosen for their foliage qualities such as the silver-gray lavender cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus)* that makes a striking contrast with the deep-green cranesbill (*Geranium incanum*) as they cascade down the stone walls, or the 'Raspberry Ice' bougainvillea which adorns the hillside with its cream and green variegated foliage punctuated with bright-red flower bracts. A distinctive form is found in the fountain shaped New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax)* 'Maori Maiden' whose impact is heightened by its rose, olive and cream variegation or the rosette formed (*Agave desmettiana)* with its undulating leaves and yellow variegation. A nasturtium bauhinia (*Bauhinia galpinii)* is trained to cover the structure of the deck and take advantage of a warm sunny exposure rewarding the owner with a cascade of red-orange flowers. Since much of the flower color ranges in

*(continued on page 68)*

# FLORAL DESIGN ESSENTIALS

UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLES OF floral design can aid immensely in one's successful pursuit and enjoyment of flower arranging. However, *technical interpretations* can be intimidating to creative endeavor, can in fact even discourage the novice from attempting the first tentative steps.

The following lists are learning tools to help a budding designer develop a discerning eye and awareness of why one design is more successful or pleasurable than another; why one captures the blue ribbon while another isn't even considered in the competition. Armed with knowledge of these components one's analytical powers are keener, allowing for a greater grasp of understanding and appreciation when studying the work of talented designers or photographs of arrangements. It will also help to have this knowledge to draw from when trying to evaluate your own endeavors when they do not seem "quite right."

The strong elements of this arrangement have been artfully assembled. *Sansevieria,* the vertical line, is a fine choice for the *Kniphofia* (poker plant) because it is strong and heavy. The round container replicates the curves of the cactus. Dominance in this instance is the brightly colored *Kniphofia* complemented and reinforced by the secondary plant material.

There are six principles of floral design—a principle being a basic law or axiom. Each arrangement needs agreeable:

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance | Rhythm |
| Contrast | Proportion |
| Dominance | Scale |

BALANCE is inherent whether it is achieved visually or actually. The lack of it is disturbing to the eye.
CONTRAST stimulates interest.
DOMINANCE emphasizes one element. This can be achieved through repetition in many cases.
RHYTHM implies movement or flow leading the eyes comfortably through or around an arrangement. This can be achieved through color, form, or space.
PROPORTION is the comparative relationship (for our purposes) between the arrangement and its surroundings, i.e., background, container, base, stand, etc.
SCALE is the size relationship of material within the arrangement itself, i.e., chrysanthemums coupled with violets would be poor scale. Camellias and azaleas would be good because they can be compatible in size.

Eight elements of an arrangement that are also essential to good design since they are critical to the total effect are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Line | Pattern | Light |
| Space | Texture | Size |
| Form | Color | |

LINE is the backbone, the indicator of a design. We are indebted to the Japanese for introducing line interpretations to the Western world.
SPACE, like a rest in music, can by its very presence lend emphasis.
FORM is the fleshing out of the line, the external appearance of a defined area. A rather inelegant, but graphic, example would be to think of the human skeleton as the line and the flesh as the form (material added to the indicated line).
PATTERN is the surface design achieved by the material arrangement within a design.
TEXTURE is the dimensional design of pattern.
COLOR is the very breath of vibrance and can

*by JUNE LENZ*

perform magic within a design. Artfully used color can unify, give balance, contrast, dominance, and rhythm.

LIGHT is an element that lends a unique dimension to an arrangement. Natural light that changes with the day's sunlight should be taken into consideration in placement of the design. Artificial light can be either incandescent, which is warm in feeling, or fluorescent, which is cool and can drain color, especially the blue shades. The location of the light source, either natural or artificial, should be carefully considered. Shadows that are cast by light can add depth and drama to an arrangement.

SIZE is closely related to proportion and scale. It is visual. The overall design, whether seen near or from a distance, should be appropriate to the setting as well as to the components that make up the rest of the design.

This arrangement is a good example of rhythm and use of space. The curved willow suggests movement. Though visually light by comparison with the driftwood and plant material, the utilization of height and space successfully brings balance to the whole.

Pattern is achieved in this mass arrangement by careful placement of the roses. The eye is comfortably drawn to the larger blossoms and casual grouping front and lower center. Texture here is difficult to discern from the flat black and white photograph, but the smaller flowers and choice of plant material indicate a pleasing choice giving contrast and depth to the overall arrangement.

Now that you have the basic vocabulary, file it away in your subconscious and let your creative juices filter through. There is always room for new and refreshing interpretations in floral design.

The charm and the challenge for floral designers are found in the very material they have to work with. Where the artist has oils and water colors at hand, and the potter the clay to be colored and manipulated at will, and the sculptor the marble, or the carver the wood, plant material is not static. Planned designs are always contingent upon the vagaries of nature. A cold snap or night wind can destroy chosen blossoms, rain and mildew despoil, voracious snails chew large holes in planned-for greenery. The florist is unable to supply the ordered tulips (what would you like to substitute?). This is the challenge. The charm is when one is forced to alter plans at the last minute and something entirely different evolves: a

*(continued on page 84)*

# GERMINATING SEEDS

by RON SISSONS

## A SEED IS AN EMBRYO PLANT

BASICALLY A SEED IS an embryo plant with its supply of food all wrapped up in a protective package. After the ripe seed has separated from the parent plant it remains inactive until certain conditions are met before starting in motion the process called *germination*. Germination involves a series of complex changes within the seed that trigger the availability of the stored food and prompt the initiation of embryonic growth. As germination proceeds, the growing point of the root emerges from the seed to move downwards into the soil, while the growing point of the shoot begins to push up to the soil surface. It may shove aside a stone, for example, or enlarge a crevice in some rock on its way to the sun.

But some seeds fail to germinate even when the required environmental factors of moisture, favorable temperature, and oxygen are met. A dormancy is present because an internal condition of some part of the seed prevents germination. Generally, behind the dormancy factor will be found some design of nature concerned with natural survival.

Nature uses seed dormancy to prevent the germination of freshly ripened seed of some species where natural conditions would be adverse to the survival of the seedlings. This is due in some instances to chemical substances within the seed that inhibit germination. This form of dormancy, employed by certain desert plants that will not germinate until after a *heavy* rain, amply illustrates the artifice of nature. A light rain is insufficient to leach out the chemical inhibitor from the seed. However, a heavy rain will not only accomplish this, but also will provide the germinating seed with enough moisture for the seedling to survive.

Nature also uses dormancy in seeds to allow a time factor for their dissemination by natural means — as a result species may spread to other areas with a more favorable environment.

Although many flower and vegetable seeds are dormant when freshly harvested the dormancy period has usually passed by the time the seed packet arrives in the sower's hand. Some seeds have the moisture taken out to the very minimum and then are packed in laminated foil. This gives them a shelf life of five years or more — provided the packet stays unopened. When I get some seeds delivered, I transfer them to a screw-top preserving bottle and place them in the refrigerator and draw on them as needed. My wife gets a little sore at me when she finds as many as five screw-top bottles, all containing seed packets, tucked away in the refrigerator. But, it certainly is a great way to store seeds. I bought some F1 hybrid Sonatine tomato seed when I was over in England four years ago. I have made successive sowings ever since, popping the seed back in the screw-top bottle in the refrigerator each successive time.

## SCARIFICATION AND STRATIFICATION

ALTHOUGH FLOWER AND VEGETABLE seeds present no problems so far as dormancy is concerned, the germination of some tree and shrub seeds may prove disappointing unless some pre-germination treatment is practiced. For instance, a common cause of dormancy in tree and shrub seeds is a hard impervious coat that prevents water uptake. Species with hard seed coats are found in a number of families. The one most commonly associated with hard seed coats is the legume, in which are found the locusts and acacias.

In dealing with seeds having a very hard coat, a little modifying treatment immediately before planting is well worthwhile. The shells of large seeds may be cracked with a hammer, but as can be imagined, this is a delicate operation for such an indelicate tool and must be performed with care or damage to the inner part of the seed is a certainty.

Seeds large enough to be handled individually may be rubbed on sandpaper or be stroked with a file as a means of making the seed coat more permeable to water. As might be expected, specialist propagators have a word for this type of pre-germination treatment — *scarification*. Hard-coated seeds too small to scarify individually can be tumbled around in a tin can either lined with sandpaper or containing coarse sand or gravel. After scarification the seed coat should be dull but not pitted so deeply as to expose the inner parts of the seed. If you are the type who likes to live dangerously, the seed coats may be scarified by soaking seeds in concentrated sulfuric acid.

As an alternative to scarification, hard-coated seeds may be dropped into water just off the boil, allowing the seeds to soak in the gradually cooling water for 24 hours. The seeds should be planted immediately after the hot water treatment. If poor germination results after either the scarification or the hot water soaking, combining the two treatments should be tried. Scarify the seed before dropping it into hot water.

Another form of dormancy is concerned with changes that take place within the seed after it has been harvested. The seeds of certain temperate zones species, such as roses, hollies, cotoneasters, and prunus, require storing for the winter by a method known as *stratification*. Immediately after harvesting, the berries, stones, hips and so on, are soaked in water for twenty-four hours and then mixed with twice their volume of either moist sand, moist peat, or a mixture of the two. (The term *stratification* as related to this pre-germination treatment springs from the practice of placing seeds in between layers of moist sand.) Suitable containers for the stratification of seeds are boxes, cans, or other containers that provide aeration while preventing drying. The containers are stored through the winter either in a refrigerator or out of doors in an exposed position. During this time, internal *after-ripening* changes take place within the seed. These changes take place most rapidly in the temperature range between 37° and 45°F. During stratification the seeds should be examined periodically to ensure they are moist. To plant, the seeds are removed from the container and separated from the stratification medium. Use care to prevent injury to the moist seeds, which should not be allowed to dry before sowing. For a small number of seeds there is no reason why they should not be sown normally in a small pot and placed in a refrigerator until the spring.

But as I have told you before, while allowing that Dame Nature has inserted dormancy factors into ripe seeds for her own unquestionable purposes, it would be wrong to assume unripe seed will not germinate, as I found out with marigolds. I had a flower growing in a container right beneath a drip in a green-house roof. When I noticed the drip it had caused the marigold flower to rot. It set me thinking, and I decided to run a little experiment. The upshot of the experimental issue was that it took only twelve days from pollination to germination of seeds therefrom. No one would believe me! But Dame Nature knew! □

RON SISSIONS received his horticultural training in England. He was the director of the Long Beach Department of Parks and Recreation before retiring to Chula Vista.

Photo of 'Persian Berry' Iris by Betty Newton →

*Tall bearded, spuria, and Louisiana irises, plus several others will be on display at the 30th Annual Iris Show to be held May 6 and 7 in Room 101, Casa del Prado. Come see for yourself "Iris — Goddess of the Rainbow" in living color.*

# IRIS

(Continued from page 69)

of too much or standing water, this is the ideal location for Louisianas. Otherwise, watering deeply and often is the key to success.

They prefer acid soil. Before planting, dig into the soil lots of manure, compost, and peat moss. Garden sulfur may be used to give added acidity. The plants also need a good supply of iron to keep their leaves green. They are heavy feeders and should be fertilized in the fall and again in early spring with a high acid food such as camellia/azalea fertilizer.

Louisianas increase rapidly so give them plenty of room. Leave them for several years before dividing. The best time for digging is October. The entire clump should be dug and divided. Keep the outside new growth and discard the center old growth. Do not allow the rhizomes to dry out. They must be kept wet until replanted. Place them in a bucket of water immediately after being dug. Plant them a couple of feet apart and about two inches deep. Make sure they do not dry out until well established and then water frequently as mentioned above. Too little water results in fewer increases and less bloom. □

DOROTHY DRISCOLL is past president of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society. She grows nearly three hundred different varieties of iris plus many other kinds of beautiful plants.

# THE CALLA: A LILY WITH GRACE

*by Catherine L. Zinsky*

THE CALLA IS TOO often ignored by many gardeners, and it shouldn't be. Given its elegance of line and unfurling simplicity, it is a flower of artful elegance that can grace both garden and floral arrangement alike.

*Zantedeschia* hails from South Africa and belongs to the Araceae (arum family). According to *Hortus* there are only six species in this genus; however, hybridizers are making their magic with callas and delighting gardeners with such results as "Green Empress," a cream and green calla whose blossom is decidedly larger than the more common white variety, though in both the plants themselves can stand 4 feet if given proper conditions.

The members of the Araceae are remarkable for having spathes as blossoms. Spathes have no petals per se; rather they are a bract or leaf surrounding a spadix, which is the flower spike itself. In *Zantedeschia* the spathe often has coloration, as in the "Green Empress" mentioned above. The spathes of callas can also be found in yellow and various shades of pinks. *Z. albomaculata* is also called the black-throated calla, though the "black" is more of a deep purple. Still!

Callas are rhizomatous. Rhizomes are underground stems that grow horizontally along the surface of the soil. This horizontal growth means your clump of callas can become quite formidable if left undisturbed. But the growth is manageable, not rampant, and allows ample opportunity for you to divide and conquer, which is the best way to propagate callas.

Being rhizomes and therefore members of the bulb world means callas are low maintenance. An occasional light application of fertilizer is all the feeding they require. The white calla, *Z. aethiopica*, enjoys large amounts of water, the more water, the more flowers. It's as simple as that. This specific variety is, unlike many of the callas, evergreen. Water is necessary year-round.

Those callas that lose their foliage prefer less boggy conditions, and are even apt to succumb to root rot if drainage isn't sufficient. Still, they are not cacti and will require regular watering, just not year-round. Once the blooms are spent, fertilize to replenish nutrients to the rhizomes, then gradually reduce your watering.

Depending upon the variety, callas vary in height from 1-4 feet. The dwarf varieties make handsome pot plants and can be taken indoors as long as they are given good light. Callas are tender, so will need protection from heavy frosts in the colder areas. Simply lift the rhizomes and store in a cool, dry place, preferably in peat or vermiculite.

When planting callas, set the rhizomes 3-6 inches deep and one foot apart. I like to add a little bone meal at this time. Cover, water, and step back to enjoy a plethora of growth and blossoms.

Snails and slugs are anathema to callas. Either bait or hand pick these pestiferous varmints.

Calla lilies make exceptional cut flowers. I'm especially fond of the white callas in arrangements as they're long-stemmed (2-3 feet!), clean looking in their simplicity, while presenting a picture of utter purity. A large vase of white callas, sans any foliage or other distractions, is elegance itself.

Happy gardening!□

CATHERINE L. ZINSKY is a garden writer for national magazines.

*Catherine is having an Open Garden on May 13th and 14th, Saturday, 9:00AM-3:00PM, Sunday, 10:00AM-4:00PM. Limited plants for sale — at 309 Estornino Lane, El Cajon (Crest). Private group showings are possible, call 447-4668.*

# BABY ARTICHOKES

by BARBARA S. JONES

APPROXIMATELY 70% OF THE ARTICHOKES commercially grown in the USA are from Monterey County in California. My first encounter with delicious baby artichokes was during the year I lived there. In season baby buds were sold in markets for a penny each and farmers markets sold quarter bushel bags for fifty cents to a dollar a bag. Only the locals appreciated these small buds before the fuzzy center developed. (Even today, most are seen in jars or as part of an antipasto plate or in a salad.) Bud bracts are tender and if one bites down on the stem end the tender inner bracts and the center will pop out as one delicious mouthful.

The artichokes one normally finds in markets are the large buds that grow at the tip of primary or secondary stems. After boiling, only the very bottom of the individual bracts (leaf-like petals) and the fleshy base (receptacle) are eaten. If you want to eat fresh, three inch long, baby buds you will have to grow your own.

Artichokes need a long growing season and moist air. They can be grown in drier areas if they have afternoon shade and are given frequent water sprays on hot or dry days. They can withstand short bouts of freezing. The leaves may fall, but new ones will grow when the weather becomes warmer. The soil must be rich and able to retain moisture without being soggy. Before planting the soil should be enriched with well rotted manure. Many experienced growers mulch established plants with rotted manure in the spring and fall. Immature plants (divisions) and seeds are available from local plant dealers. Plants grown from seeds will probably not produce the first year. Individual plants can be grown in large 5 to 10 gallon containers. Although seedlings may be consumed by snails and slugs, mature plants only seem to be homes for them. In this area the plants are fairly disease resistant.

*Photographs of artichoke blossoms by Roy K. Jones*

Artichokes, *Cynara scolymus,* are perennials. Plants can stay in the ground from six to ten years, but many growers renew plants every three to four years. They are a close relative of the thistle and if the buds are allowed to mature they will produce a cluster of lovely purple, bluish flowers. The large central stalk produces one large bud, secondary stalks produce smaller buds, and many smaller stalks produce the baby buds. Under ideal conditions many central stalks can be produced in one year. The most common variety is Green Globe, but there are other varieties available. Some are purple tinged.

Prior to WWI all commercial artichokes were imported from Europe. They were pricey and usually consumed for their "snob" value. In the 20s Italian immigrant farmers started the first commercial production in the USA in Monterey County. They wisely included recipe booklets in every box shipped. Even today many people have never tasted a fresh artichoke. If you have never had one, boil a large bud in water until a bract can be pulled off easily. Remove and drain the bud. The fleshy part of the base of the bract is removed with the teeth after being dipped in melted butter or in mayonnaise. Near the center, the whole small bracts can be eaten. The fuzzy flowers can be easily removed before the fleshy base and the upper part of the stem are cut into bite-size pieces. Enjoy!□

BARBARA JONES has been gardening in this area for over 50 years.

# CHIVES AND ONIONS

by ROBERT D. HORWITZ

PLANTING ONIONS IN OUR climate can be a year-round pleasure. However, if you want to get a good leg up on the growing season, late winter and early spring is the time to buy onion sets at the nursery. The sets are little onions about a half-inch in diameter that are grown from seeds initially. This is the only time they are available. Onions and their kindred can be grown from seed any time of the year. The seeds are little black things looking much like coarsely ground pepper. Sow the seeds in flats, following the directions on the seed packet. You should keep the flat soil damp until the seeds have sprouted. This may take several weeks. The seedlings look like green needles poking out of the soil.

Prepare the ground for transplanting the seedlings by digging deeply and incorporating lots of manure and compost to make a loose, well-draining soil. Put each seedling into the ground about an inch or two inches apart. If you are going for scallions, which are young onions, use the one inch spacing. Use the two inch spacing if you plan to let them go to term and harvest the mature onion.

Planting the sets is easy. Prepare the soil as above and put the little onion sets into the ground about two to three inches apart so that the bulbs will have a chance to expand and grow to their full size. Waiting for the mature onions takes patience. Let them grow to full size, then bend the leaves down to the ground so that the growing energy will go into maturing the bulbs and avoiding the blossom production.

You also can buy seedlings of bunching onions in pony packs in nurseries. You can get garlic and shallot bulbs at the same time as you get onion sets. Give them the same culture. Shallots in the market are quite expensive, so growing your own will pay off. Plant the bulbs with the pointed end up about two inches deep. Keep the soil damp. After the first shoots start to come up, you can fertilize with a balanced vegetable fertilizer to promote good root growth.

If you like the taste of onions and garlic in your food, then you will like the taste of chives as a flavoring and garnish. In our local climate chives can be grown the year-round. Once you get a bed of them growing from seed or a pony pack, you can propagate them by splitting up mature bunches and replanting.

Chives are a member of the onion genus (*Allium*) and their culture is similar for all the members. Plant chive seeds in the early spring in good soil that will allow water penetration, but not hold too much water. Cover the seeds with ¼ to ½ inch of soil and keep the soil moist. After sprouting, the plantlets do not need thinning as they will form bunches. Since you want leaf growth instead of large root bulb growth, this will ensure plenty of leaves. When the leaves reach six inches or so in height it is time to start harvesting. Snip off as many leaves as you need just above the soil line. The plant will send up new leaves almost immediately. After a few such harvests, fertilize with a 5-10-5 fertilizer. The younger and more tender leaves will taste, obviously, more delicate.

There are two primary varieties of the chive, the *Allium schoenoprasm* and the *A. tuberosum*. The first, the most common, is seen in bunches in the market. It has a distinct, but pleasant, onion flavor. As it matures in summer it will produce pinkish flowers not unlike clover flowers. These flowers will make a subtle and interesting garnish for the dish in which you used the chopped leaves. The latter chive, sometimes called Chinese chive, garlic chive, or oriental garlic, has flat leaves and a soft flavor of garlic that is not penetrating and overpowering.

In winter when the growth of the chives slows down and the various clumps have become crowded, you can dig up the clumps, split them into smaller bunches, and replant. This will cause the plant to produce more leaves when the roots get reestablished. When new growth appears after replanting, you can fertilize again.

Snip off the tops of the chives for your kitchen use. Here is a variation of a tried-and-true recipe using chives as a garnish for potatoes, either baked or boiled:

> Prepare your potatoes as you like them. Mix one or more tablespoons of chopped chives with one or more tablespoons of yoghurt and a dash of salt and pepper per potato. Slit the top of the baked potato and garnish with chive mixture. Peel and slice the boiled potato thinly and spread the chive mixture over the slices. This is good hot or cold!

Chives and garlic can be grown as kitchen window herbs. They can be planted in old coffee cans or in a more decorative container keeping them handy on the kitchen window sill. This works only if there is plenty of light available to the growing plants.

Cooking is sterile without the onion-garlic-chive family to flavor our food. It is almost like cooking without salt! The plants are as basic to food as eating itself. □

ROBERT HORWITZ is a retired aerospace engineer. He is a regular contributor to local publications, growing the plants that he describes in Point Loma.

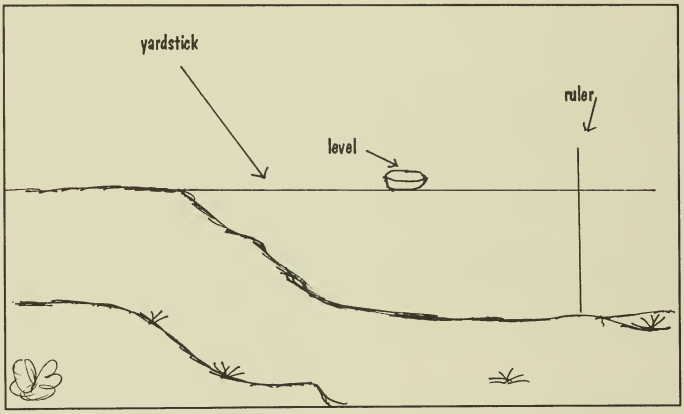
# DETERMINING THE SLOPE OF YOUR YARD

by BARBARA S. JONES

ONE OF THE FIRST considerations in home-garden water conservation is the control of run-off, the part of the *watering* that goes down the gutter and not into the ground. Many home owners think that their property is flat, but if there is any run-off, it is not. There is a simple method of determining if you have a slope. Most slopes can be measured with one yardstick, a one foot ruler, and a small clear container about the size of a plastic pill bottle. To do it in your yard just follow these steps:

(1) With a marker, draw a line around the clear container. Be sure to maintain the distance from the bottom the same all around. Fill the container with water to this line. (This will be used as a level.)

(2) Hold the 36″ end of the yardstick and place the 0″ end on the ground at the highest point of the slope you wish to measure.




(3) Place the level (the water filled container) on the flat side of the yardstick (near the middle) and raise the 36″ end until the water is level.

(4) Take the foot ruler, place the 0″ mark on the ground directly under the 25″ mark on the yardstick, and determine the place (number of inches off the ground) where the ruler crosses the yardstick.

(5) Use the following formula to calculate the slope: Number of inches the 25″ mark is above the ground X the conversion factor of 4 = the percentage slope of the land.

Examples: (a) if the yardstick was level when the ruler measured 6″ from the ground at the 25″ mark [6 x 4 = 24% slope]

(b) if the yardstick was level when the ruler measured 2″ from the ground at the 25″ mark [2 X 4 = 8% slope]

Sometimes a steep slope cannot be measured with a yardstick. A longer stick can be used. Measure and mark the 50″ and the 100″ distances on the stick. (Be sure the stick is rigid because a sag would invalidate the results.) When a longer stick is used, the foot ruler many have to be replaced with a yardstick. The formula for the 100″ mark uses a conversion factor of 1 to calculate the slope. The conversion factor for the 50″ mark is 2.

When checking the slope, it is advisable to take several measurements and average them. When both the direction and the amount of slope have been determined, then the "run-off" problem can be solved. A slope up to 3% will not cause any problems under normal conditions. Over that amount a bender board or some other type of low retainer could be used at the lower level to hold back the water until it can seep into the ground. Slopes of 7% to 20% are considered moderate, and any slope over 30% is difficult. Moderate slopes can be controlled by a low dam or a series of dams placed at intervals down the slope. Bricks or stone walls are effective, but railroad ties are easy to use and make a natural looking dam. Over 25 years ago I terraced my 20% slope yard with a series of railroad ties. This year some of the ties have begun to break-down. Most of the ties have blended into the landscape and are invisible to the eye. There is no water run off when I water or when it rains even though the water gushes down the street from my nearest neighbor's yard with an identical slope. An added bonus is that the plant food and mulches do not wash off.

To control severe slopes professional advice may be needed to avoid erosion and wash-outs. Retainer walls need to be properly made and drained so they do not collapse.

Even if you do not have a run-off problem, it is fun to check the lay-of-your-land (and your neighbors', too). □

BARBARA JONES learned this at a Forest Service conservation workshop.

# Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

## AFRICAN VIOLETS
**Helen La Gamma**

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATER** only when soil is dry.

**TO REPOT** only if necessary.

**TO TAKE** the time to groom your violets by removing the lower row of leaves and all flower stems.

**TO SEE** that you have proper soil: light, porous and with good drainage.

**TO PUT** all plants on wicks using a 3½ to 4 cup reservoir.

**TO HAVE** 12 to 14 hours of light daily.

**TO HAVE** proper spacing—provide room for good air circulation.

**TO USE** good fertilizer according to the instruction at each watering.

## BEGONIAS
**Margaret Lee**

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATCH** tuberous begonias for signs of mildew, correct with dust and spray.

**TO CHECK** cane type begonias and cut back if needed.

**TO SPRAY** for insects using malathion.

**TO FINISH** repotting where needed; use a light porous mixture.

**TO FEED** plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.

**TO WATER** as needed—keep moist but *not wet*.

**TO CHECK** tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed, add fresh soil. Stake any tall stems.

## BONSAI
**Dr. Herbert Markowitz**

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO DEVELOP** a watering schedule, but avoid over-watering, especially the pines.

**TO PRUNE** all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.

**TO SPRAY** for insects as needed, using either a systemic or a mild surface insecticide.

**TO SHAPE** deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.

**TO CONTROL** any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.

**TO FERTILIZE** trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not overfeed the pines.

**TO COMPLETE** the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.

**TO PLACE** trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00 AM to prevent sunburning.

**TO ROTATE** trees often to maintain proper shape.

## BROMELIADS
**Mary Siemers**

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO FERTILIZE** the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouse can be fertilized year-round.

**TO USE** a water-soluble fertilizer—preferably one high in acid, using only ½ the recommended strength on label.

**TO CUT** new offshoots to make new plants during the summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be ⅓ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

**TO KEEP** plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

**TO CHECK** plants for scale. If needed treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains give same treatment in two weeks.

**TO GIVE** plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around plants.

## CACTI & SUCCULENTS
**Joseph Betzler**

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATER** plants, but not too wet. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

**TO FERTILIZE** for growth and flowering. Allow the

winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.
**TO PROTECT** the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.
**TO CHECK** any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from rest of plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.
**TO REPOT** those plants needing it; use a well-draining mix, but do not overpot. A good rule of thumb is to allow an inch between plant and the pot.
**TO REPOT** seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.
**TO CHECK** entire collection for any pests or disease; if so, treat at once to avoid an infestation.

## CAMELLIAS
**E. C. Snooks**

**NOW IS THE TIME**
**TO START** a feeding program when they finish blooming. Use an acid-type fertilizer: cottonseed meal, camellia food, or liquid fish.
**TO BE SURE** to water well the day before feeding, never fertilize a dry plant.
**TO TRANSPLANT** those plants that have started their new growth.
**TO REPOT** those plants that have outgrown their pots. Move to one size larger pot per time.
**TO MULCH** plants well with redwood compost or pine needles. This helps to keep the soil uniformly moist and the weeds down.
**TO PRUNE** out unwanted new growth; shape and thin out center.
**TO SPRAY** for insects as they appear; use Cygon for looper worms and aphids. Use a miticide if mites appear later.
**TO ESTABLISH** and maintain a uniform watering routine. Plants should never be allowed to go dry.

## DAHLIAS
**Abe Janzen**

**NOW IS THE TIME**
**TO FEED** with low nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.
**TO SPRAY** weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try a systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.
**TO WATER** when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.
**TO PLANT** smaller varieties and give regular care for growing.
**TO BE SURE** to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.
**TO PINCH** out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

## EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)
**Abe Janzen**

**NOW IS THE TIME**
**TO PRUNE** plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.
**TO PUT** out snail bait and watch for other pests.
**TO REMOVE** wilted flowers by cutting about ¾" out from leaf unless you desire seed to form.
**TO TAKE CARE** in watering, do *NOT* allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but *NOT* wet.
**TO GIVE** plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.
**TO STAKE** long spindly growth.
**TO PROTECT** foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

## FERNS
**Ray Sodomka**

**NOW IS THE TIME**
**TO REMOVE** dead fronds.
**TO PLANT** spores.
**TO USE** a high-nitrogen fertilizer liquid or pellets twice a month.
**TO SPRAY** for aphids and scale if necessary.
**TO WATER** thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas.

## FUCHSIAS
**William Selby**

**NOW IS THE TIME**
**TO PINCH** plants for shape and bushy growth.
**TO CHANGE** to 5-10-10 fertilizer to hasten maturity.
**TO WATCH** for insects and pests. Spray or use a systemic eradicator; use amount recommended by manufacturer or less, do *NOT* use an oil spray.
**TO BE SURE** to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.
**TO CONTROL** snails, use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.
**TO KEEP** plants clean of debris and spent blooms.
**TO TURN** baskets regularly so they do not become one-sided.
**TO WATCH** plants on hot or windy days. Do *NOT* allow them to dry out; keep damp but *NOT* WET.

## GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)
Carol Roller

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. During extended rainy periods, move potted plants out of the rain. Provide the best possible drainage for plants in the ground. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended strength. Use often enough to keep plants growing well. Long term pellets may be used instead.

**TO CONTINUE** pest control and disease prevention, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.

**TO SELECTIVELY** prune and pinch ivies and zonals for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals and scenteds because this is their flowering season.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

**TO REMOVE** faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

**TO ROTATE** pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

**TO ENJOY** your plants at the height of their season.

## IRIS
San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO ALLOW** cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. May be placed in vitamin B solution for awhile before planting.

**TO HAVE** beds prepared for planting and transplanting. Work in humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure.

**TO WATCH** for aphids. May use a systemic insecticide.

**TO FEED** spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.

**TO KEEP** watering all iris that are still blooming.

**TO FEED** Siberians after blooming with a balanced fertilizer to assure bloom for next year.

**TO FEED** Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.

**TO FEED** Japanese iris with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

## ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO OBSERVE** the weather—be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight, use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass or overhead.

**TO MAINTAIN** pest control against red spider, mealy bugs, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.

**TO AVOID** sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot dry days; mist seedlings and small plants—mist in the morning and afternoon, plants should be dry by nightfall.

**TO REMEMBER** that plants need good air circulation and proper light.

*Culture of Different Genera*:

*Cymbidium*: Light to partial shade to full sun, protect flowers from sunburn. Temperature 50°–70°optimum. Humidity 40–70%. Potting media; epiphyte-tree fern, firbark, non-organic mixes or osmunda. New fertilizers have been developed and should be available.

*Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola* **and Hybrid:** Light 2400–3600 foot candles. Temperature 69°–70° optimum. Media for potting: firbark, tree fern, osmunda, gravel, perlite or charcoal. Fertilizer depends on type of media used to grow your plants.

*Phalaenopsis* **and Hybrid:** Light 900–1000 foot candles. Shade to adjust and meet requirements. Temperature 65°–85°, humidity 50–75%; remember the higher the temperature, the more circulation of air is required.

*Vanda, Vandopsis, Ascocentrum, Aerides* **and Hybrid:** Light 2000-3600 foot candles. Temperature 60°-70° humidity 49-75%. Potting media: tree fern, firbark, charcoal, lava rock, or a combination of these. Fertilizer depends on media used. Vandas are voracious feeders and growers when right combination is used.

## ROSES
Marianne Truby

**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO ENCOURAGE** your second bloom cycle by keeping the spent blooms cut off your bushes.

**TO CONTROL** weeds by light raking around the bushes. Be careful not to disturb the feeder roots. Mulch will help in control of weeds and also help to conserve moisture.

**TO WATER** your roses according to their needs. Early morning is a fine time to wash your bushes off with a strong spray of water to remove dust. The birds will love the water and so will the roses. Drip irrigation systems should be checked regularly to

ensure they are still working properly.

**TO OBSERVE** and evaluate your newly planted bushes. Check all bushes for basal growth and/or sucker growth. Remove sucker growth by giving it a sharp pull. If suckers are left to grow your bush will be taken over by wild rootstock.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding to ensure healthy bushes and continuing bloom cycles. If your bushes have been planted for many years consider using fertilizers that have soil penetrants and use organics such as blood meal. Old rose bushes can be revitalized if you are persistant.

**TO BE ALERT** for spider mites during hot, dry weather. Your foliage will look dry and webs will appear on your bushes.

**TO SHARE** your blooms and encourage others to grow roses, our National Flower.

## NATIVES
**Jeanine De Hart**

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO SLACK** off on watering of the drought-tolerant natives. By the end of May a deep watering once every three weeks should be sufficient.

**TO CONSERVE** water by planting drought-tolerant natives.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES
**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension**

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO IRRIGATE** thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning ⅓ of the distance from the trunk to the tree's dripline and extending out beyond the dripline a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).

**TO REMOVE** grass and weeds from soil under a tree's canopy.

**TO APPLY** a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from the trunk to protect trees from crown rot. Complete thinning apples, pears and stone fruit after "June drop."

**TO REMOVE** any suckers growing from rootstock.

**TO WASH** trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew and pests like aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.

**TO SPRAY** walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control coddling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

## VEGETABLES
**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension**

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PLANT** warm-season crops which require warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumber, gourd, luffa, melons, and squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflower, tomatoes and tender herbs.

**TO PLANT** pumpkins in late June for Halloween. Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.

**TO APPLY** nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when: corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; cucurbits when plants begin to produce runners; eggplant, peppers and tomatoes when plants begin to bloom and again a month later; beans for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet of row, apply ⅓–½ cup of ammonium sulfate or ¼–⅓ cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants, then irrigate thoroughly.

**TO CHECK** plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are a foot tall to control russet mites (older leaves die prematurely). Apply sulfur with a dust blower when wind is calm. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect them from cutworms.

## GREEN THUMB

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REMOVE** dried foliage of bulbs and tie back other foliage until it dries naturally before removing.

**TO FEED** azaleas and cut back dead wood.

**TO PLANT** gladiolus bulbs for fall bloom.

**TO PINCH** chrysanthemums for bushier plants with more buds in the fall.

**TO PLANT** summer-blooming annuals: and zinnias and marigolds for late summer bloom.

**TO INVEST** in blooming perennials available in June: daylilies, agapanthus, Shasta daisies, etc.

**TO PLANT** annuals: asters, calendulas, cosmos, impatiens, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, etc.

*Illustrations courtesy of Shepherd's Garden Seeds*

# COMMUNICATIONS . . .

This quotation from an article by Alfred D. Robinson, editor of *California Garden*, in the January 1915 issue, is still apt today:

> We know this is a garden magazine and philosophizing ought to be tabooed but our mind has been running on a short conversation held [at a convention]. We were seeking a recognition for *California Garden* from a prominent visiting nurseryman and in making our plea remarked that personally we received nothing for our labor. He to whom we made suit replied that there were other compensations than money or salary possible to an editor. At the time we had a slight feeling of being insulted and since have often wished that we had asked the gentleman what these emoluments might be; one has been discovered, and we realise we have always had it, the privilege of doing as the moment suggested. When the reader comes on something in this magazine that he deems a weed in the *California Garden* let him say "This is the editor's compensation" and pass it by. (page 3)
>
> Editor

Greetings from far away Poland. Here I am, an American, where East meets West, and I'd like to tell you about one of the best.

What we have here is a man, ROMAN PLASKOTA, who is a breed apart. He is a collector and cultivator of rare and vanishing species of plants, herbs, and spices.

For the past twenty years he has devoted himself to watching, talking, peeping and popping in on his propagations. Using only natural manure (no chemicals), ashes, fire, prayers, morphological energy radiation and good vibrations, he has created diverse species instilled with a solid, stable and firm sense of values.

Amazing but true, his methods are the reason why his plants give happy and lively seeds fully capable of germination even in extremely tough adverse climatic conditions.

His one wish is to share his seeds of wild herb flowers and creepers with lovers of this art in the U.S.A. And he wants to do this for free, no charge! Strapped down under difficult financial conditions, as is all Poland, he would like you to run a short notice or include this letter in your magazine.

It is his hope that offering one of a kind seeds from Poland to your large readership will stimulate and contribute to international good fellowship between our nations as well as help you to give a piece of the old country back to the millions of Polish Americans, many of whom must be part of your readership from Alaska to Florida. Let us leave no stone unturned in planting these good seeds.

(Ronald G. McGerity for)
Roman Plaskota Botanical Garden
PL-95-200 PABIANICE
P. O. Box 6
POLAND

*We think Mr. McGerity is operating under some delusions about our readership. He sent some seeds of Pulsatilla grandis that, as best as can be determined, grow in a cool, moist climate, Sunset zones 1-6, 15-17. If anyone in that climate cares to have them, let us know.* Editor

Thank you for Ross Loucks' articles on the ornamental grasses at Sea World. It was a pleasure to get started learning about Cape Rush, Dwarf Fountain Grass, the Fiber Optics grass, Dwarf Horsetail, two kinds of Silver Grass and the tall Ravenna Grass.

I think this magazine is really useful to gardeners — all the way from beginners to serious amateurs and even people working in the field. Thanks,

Betty Newton El Cajon

*Thank YOU, Betty.* Editor

Thank you very much. This little magazine has the very best information for the San Diego area. I really appreciate the practical approach.

Please do more on water gardens:
(1) plants
(2) problems.

Mrs. G. M. Haffely Oceanside

*We are happy you find the magazine of value. Anyone who is willing to write about water gardens, please contact us.* Editor

*We welcome letters, comments, and articles on garden subjects.* Editor

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"Floral Design Essentials" (*continued from page 73)*

decorative unit unexpectedly lovelier than the original would have been. And one realizes she may have a potential for flower arranging after all. □

JUNE LENZ (Mrs. C. A.), formerly a teacher, lecturer, and judge in floral art, is the founder of the Crown Garden Club of Coronado. Over the years, she has placed a number of Invitational exhibits in the Coronado Spring Flower Show.

Photographs by BETTY NEWTON

# *GLEANINGS . . .*

NEW ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

An organic, alfalfa-scented, dry fertilizer for indoor plant use has just been patented by Witmer Enterprises. It is called Llamalizer because, you guessed, it is locally made of local llama dropping. If you have amazed your friends with a PooPet in the past, here is a new idea. (PooPets are garden animal figures formed of dried manure that will slowly disintegrate when watered to feed garden plants.) Either product could enhance your conversation if not your garden. We understand that Zoo Doo and Caca Doodle Doo are other organic fertilizers that are currently available.

BRIDE'S BOUQUETS

In March, wedding pictures of the princess in Spain showed her carrying the new, small, spray-like bouquets. California Garden described the new-style bouquets in our March-April issue.

RAIN IN SAN DIEGO

That famous first picture of our Earth taken by the Apollo astronauts on their trip to the moon was especially important because we could see that Earth was one big ecosystem. Everything on Earth is interrelated and everything is changing. Plants, insects, animals, and microorganisms are continuously changing the composition. Running water of all kinds (including rain and the oceans), wind, and earth plate movement are constantly changing the actual physical features. At this time Venus has been more completely mapped than Earth, but things are changing and satellites are taking a closer look at Earth.

Of special interest to San Diegans is rain. San Diego weather is hard to predict because the area is usually on the edge of systems that may or may not arrive. Today we do not have to stick our head out the door to determine the weather. (It does help.) There are daily satellite weather photos that show clouds. One of the other devices is the Doppler weather system that gives forecasters a detailed picture of where and how much rain is falling. It is a radar system that can generate full color pictures from radar signals reflected from storms. (These maps are sometimes shown on local TV weather reports.) A single station can report a radius of 125 miles fairly accurately and can reach up to 250 miles. The closest station to us is in the Los Angeles area, but we will be getting our own station next year - estimated for March. Our local forecasters say they'll do better with it.

LOCAL FOXES

Wilbur Glover took this picture of a local red fox in Elizabeth Glover's garden on the edge of a canyon. Up to seven at a time have been seen digging in the compost placed under the fruit trees. No entrances have been found. The foxes apparently climb the 6 foot cyclone fence. We get reports from all over the city of sightings of these wild creatures.

FLOWER SHOWS

The word *florist* originated over 350 years ago in England. It was used to describe a person who grew plants solely for their decorative flowers. By the mid-17th century the flowers identified as florists' flowers were carnations, ranunculus, anemones, and tulips. Social florist societies (clubs) started about this time. Soon florist shows were being held throughout the country.

The first San Diego flower shows that were open to the public were given by SDFA. They were modeled after shows seen in England, especially the ones given by the Royal Horticultural Society.

This is flower show season and members of clubs throughout the county are showing-off their flowers and plants. Today the word *florist* identifies a business that supplies fresh plants and flowers for a decorative use. Our social groups are called *garden clubs*.

# Book Reviews

## THE NATURAL ROSE GARDENER

**Lance Walheim,** Tucson, Ironwood Press, 1994, 160 pages, 170 color photos, 40 b&w drawings, 8⅜" x 10⅞", softcover, $17.95

If this book had been written purely for the benefit of *California Garden* readers, we could accept it as the perfect solution to the large number of books based on European growing conditions, cultures and varieties. Long overdue, it includes beautiful colored pictures of local landscaped rose gardens illustrating the common sense method of including roses with perennials to create the great choice of color possible in the long growing season of our area. The pictures and descriptions of roses we know and love are shown with well researched information and description.

The chapter on rose care contains an informative chart on common diseases/pests with alternative methods of control, hence the title (Natural). The format is easy to read and includes valuable tips to help us eradicate the myth that roses are hard to grow and must be pampered. If I had to choose one book on roses, this would be it.

*Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby*

## CACTI AND SUCCULENTS IN HABITAT

**Ken Preston-Mafham,** Portland, Timber Press, 1994, 160 pages, 130 color photos, 7½" x 9½", hardcover, $24.95

Ken Preston-Mafham, the coauthor of *Cacti: The Illustrated Dictionary*, has now published a companion volume to that useful work, showing some of the same plants in their wild state rather than in cultivation. He found that succulent plants in their native habitats look very different from those pampered and overblown specimens one sees potted in collections. Cacti that we growers are used to thinking of as multi-headed and covered in flowers all summer are, in the wild, much more limited in size and quite frugal with their flowers.

Cactus nomenclature has been in a state of confusion for a long time, owing to early plant explorers' habit of giving a new species name to every individual plant they found, even if the plants were growing next to each other in the same locality. In this book, Ken Preston-Mafham sets out to show the range of variability of various single species by photographing plants he found growing together, and flowering together, in a given locality.

The title of the book is somewhat misleading, as the habitats shown are essentially only three: cacti in Bolivia, cacti and a few other succulents in the southwestern deserts of the United States, and succulents in Namaqualand, a part of the western cape of South Africa. The author has produced excellent photographs in spite of adverse weather conditions, and the reproductions are large, and all in color. In addition to photos of individual wild plants, there are many landscape pictures intended to give the reader an overview of the terrain and surrounding vegetation.

I can recommend this book particularly to growers of the cactus genera *Lobivia*, *Sulcorebutia*, and *Rebutia*, three very popular and colorful kinds of cacti. His Mojave Desert cacti are fairly well covered, though some were passed over because they were not blooming while he was visiting them. Other books have covered South Africa more thoroughly, but the photos are excellent as far as they go. Perhaps some day he will issue another volume covering some of the habitats skipped in this one: Mexico in particular, and the rest of South America.

*Reviewed by Phyllis Flechsig*

## THE SHADY GARDEN

**Jane Taylor,** New York, Sterling Publishing Co., 1994, 128 pages, 103 color photos, 16 color illustrations, 9¾" x 10½", hardcover, $19.95

The book jacket tells us that the Wayside Gardens are a retail mail order nursery firm in Hodges, South Carolina and have been since 1920. No word, however, about the author of *The Shady Garden*, but her aim is to show "how rewarding shade gardening can be: what a range of plants...are endowed with elegance, charm...qualities that endure when the jazzy calm of border flowers has palled."

First, Taylor defines types of shade, the variation between full shade and full sun-half shade, light or dappled shade, easy shade, warm, problem, dank, drafty shade, et al. Next she details ways of improving soils, a must before allowing seeds or roots into the ground. The faithful follower will, in three years at most, be able to dig holes with fingers where, before, a pick was needed.

Ms. Taylor tells us to then prepare a firm design, a "framework of trees, hedges, paths and lawn...the permanent elements of planting." She continues with a sturdy structure of shrubs, such as japonica, camellias, hydrangeas, and rhododendrons. (My neighbor in Carlsbad has had one of the last blooming for eighteen years.) Next she considers ground covers, "much more dangerous than just a way of excluding weeds" and some more dangerous, like the "dreaded *Soleirolia soleirolii*...never to be allowed near small plants."

Shade gardens should not be all green. For color try columbine, bleeding heart. And, we would add, foxglove, fuchsias, and clivia among other beauties.

The book is blessed with photos of acres of shaded woodlands flowering with trillium, bluebell, celandine poppy, and wood anemone. Such delightful expanses are probably out of the question for most of dry California gardens, but classy volumes like *The Shady Garden* allow them to be enjoyed vicariously.

*Reviewed by Jane Field Alexander*

## A GARDENER OBSESSED: Observations, Reflections, and Advice for Other Dedicated Gardeners

**Geoffrey B. Charlesworth,** New York, David R. Godine Publisher, 1994, 244 pages, 36 color photos, 6" x 9", hardcover, $24.95

The sub-titles and chapter headings of this book are a good indication that this is a work of wide appeal. Although it is not a textbook, it has much practical advice, most of it specifically on rock gardening, but including some general tips, as, for example, notes on the proper aftercare of mail-order plants, some thoughts on keeping lists and an effective use of quotations from nursery catalogs.

The author is an expert on rock gardens, and he has won awards from the North American Rock Garden Society. His garden in Massachusetts, depicted here in thirty-six color photos, is clearly extensive and the fruition of years of devoted toil. He likes to experiment and to try new and different plants, and he shares his enthusiasm and his personal philosophy without restraint. These essays are fluent, witty, and poetic, and the author's strong personality is evident. His ideas are sometimes challenging, his opinions are firmly stated, and he is always entertaining. Recommended for armchair gardeners and non-gardeners as well as active practitioners.

*Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham*

## THE GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING HARDY GERANIUMS

**Trevor Bath and Joy Jones,** Portland, Timber Press, 1994, 160 pages, 70 color photos, 40 line drawings, 7½" x 9¾", hardcover, $29.95

This book is great for those looking for more interesting varieties of geraniums and color for their gardens. The five life size studio portraits of geranium blossoms showing the range of shades of blue, mauve, purple, and pink are stunning. Ideas for combining geraniums with other plants are offered in the chapter "Geraniums in the Garden" with color photos that will make you want to experiment. There is also a valuable forty-two page A-Z list of geraniums in cultivation.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

## HERBS FOR SALE

**Lee Sturdivant,** Friday Harbor, WA., San Juan Naturals, 1994, 246 pages, b&w illustrations, 5½" x 8½", softcover, $14.95

If you have ever even considered selling herbs, even in a small way, Lee Sturdivant would convince you to go ahead and start now. This book has lots of practical information presented very clearly, and with enthusiasm. Included are the many possibilities for products and their marketing. You might enjoy the book just for the summaries of successful businesses, including two from our area, Summers Past Farms and Seabreeze Organic Farm.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

## LANDSCAPING THAT SAVES ENERGY AND DOLLARS

**Ruth S. Foster,** Old Saybrook, Ct., Globe Pequot Press, 1994, 240 pages, 60 b&w illustrations, 7" x 10", softcover, $15.95

This book contains current landscape methods useful to the homeowner. It also explains the importance of understanding the climate and microclimates of an individual's area.

Much information is given on the value of trees to provide cooling with shade, wind control, and aesthetic value. Pruning and other care techniques are explained. A tree plant list is included that provides characteristics of trees suitable for varying conditions and locations. The effects of wind, land forms, and the sun on energy conservation are covered, also water conservation, the use of rainwater in landscaping, and xeriscaping with low water use plants.

The philosophies of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Health Care (PHC) are explained as relative to good plant health and the safest methods of insect control. The value of using compost and mulches is emphasized. Various methods of preparation are discussed, so the homeowner can select the most appropriate one.

This well organized text encourages the landowner to develop aesthetic landscape appeal that will reduce energy use for heating, cooling, watering, and maintenance. The techniques are easy to follow and illustrate that energy efficiency results in a saving of time and money.

*Reviewed by Dorcas Utter*

## PLANT SURVIVAL: Adapting to a Hostile World

**Brian Capon,** Portland, Timber Press, 1994, 140 pages, 66 color illustrations, 6" x 9", softcover, $15.95

Written in a style suitable to children ages ten and up, this book provides interesting, enjoyable reading for adults also. It includes basic botany, but it also introduces scientific terms in an interesting and understandable way. Many pages introduce technical words and/or terms in italics, followed by the pronunciation in parenthesis, and then a brief description. These include items such as: "leaf abscission," "cytoplasm," and "photoperiodism." With each chapter, this friendly teaching method increases the botanical vocabulary of the budding botanist. Another fine contribution by the author is the art work, with its excellent detail in color.

Emphasis is given to the survival tactics of plants in diverse regions of the temperate zone, arctic regions, tundra, tropical rain forests, desert, and underwater. The text explains that the ability of plants to cope with environmental changes and the destruction by animal life while remaining in one location, is programmed by inherited characteristics.

The book is an excellent source of inspiration to young readers as well as the novice botanist. It is a fine example of a fact-filled book in which the author presents complicated information in a very understandable writing style.

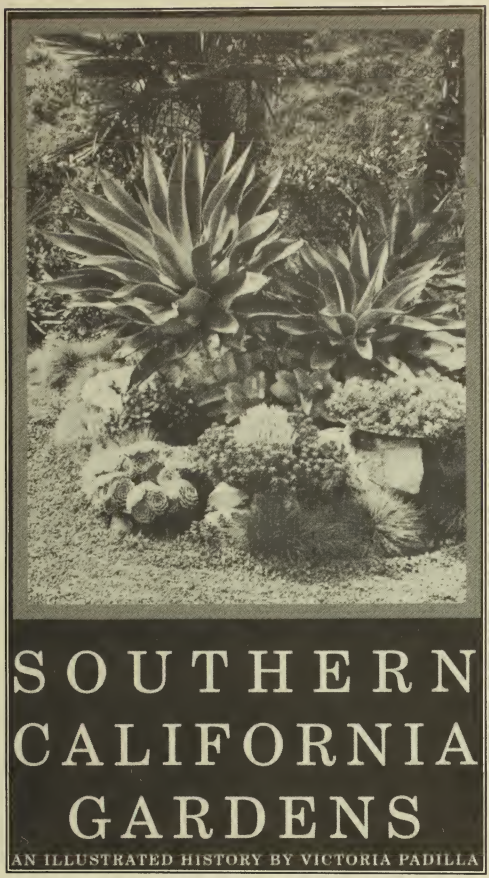
*Reviewed by Dorcas Utter*

## THE A - Z OF CUT FLOWERS

**Gilly Love,** New York, Penguin Group, Viking, 1994, 191 pages, 276 color photos, 7½" x 9½", hard cover, $22.95

Increase your pleasure in using cut flowers with the information and tips from Gilly Love in her new book. She writes of flowers available in world-wide markets, but for Southern Californians most can be cut from our own gardens. Origin of the flower, season of bloom, lasting time as a cut flower and suitability for preservation as dried material are just part of the information included. Her comments on using foliage are particularly good. The forty-one photos of floral arrangements are valuable for ideas on mixing flowers and using containers that add to the overall interest.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*




**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDENS: An Illustrated History** by **Victoria Padilla**
Santa Barbara, Allen A. Knoll, 1994, 323 pages, 16 color photos, 151 black and white photos, 6¾"x 11", hardcover, $39.95

H. M. Butterfield of the University of California stated: "If we are to learn most efficiently, we must stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before and make the most of the lessons that horticultural records can furnish." In 1954, educator and garden enthusiast Victoria Padilla was approached by Hugh Evans of Evans & Reeves regarding the task of writing a history of horticulture in Southern California. Her response: "I told him I had never written a book in my life."

Victoria Padilla was an early member of the Southern California Horticulture Institute. *Southern California Gardens* was only her first book. She went on to write several authoritative books on bromeliads, available in the Floral Association Library. Although not a horticulturist by training, her love of plants, particularly roses and bromeliads, led her to explore these topics in great depth and to share her knowledge with others. When she died in 1986, Southern California lost a fine and respected horticulture enthusiast.

The newly reissued limited edition of *Southern California Gardens* comes like a gentle rain after a long drought, but you'd best capture it before it once again dries up. It has not been readily available for too many years. First published in 1961, this book was reviewed by Helen D. Carswell (*California Garden*, Oct/Nov 1961, page 18) in depth and in joyous expectation for all that it is. *Southern California Gardens* is *the* authoritative historical account of the development of horticulture in Southern California, but it is much more. This entertaining volume weaves together the stories of history, individuals, practical references, and plant identification. No matter from what interest you approach the book you will find a great deal of value. The sections of chronological history read more like a good novel full of adventure and intrigue. Biographies of important plants people, including San Diego's Kate Sessions, are both informative and interesting. Sections on specific plant groups are full of chronological and botanical information.

San Diego Floral Association members will particularly enjoy the numerous references to leading San Diego members. Kate O. Sessions is included among the biographies of leading horticulturists. Contributions of Mrs. Mary A. Greer, Mrs. Alfred D. Robinson, Mrs. May B. Coulston, and Ethel Bailey Higgins are described in a special section recognizing "The Women Behind the Scene."

For more than three decades Victoria Padilla's *Southern California Gardens* has served as a sourcebook for serious gardeners, horticulturists, historians, and preservationists in our unique region of America. It has been out of print for nearly a generation of upcoming specialists and serious gardeners. Allen A. Knoll, Publishers has produced this reprint to be available nearly at cost as a service to the horticultural community. Readers may order the limited edition copy by credit card by calling the publisher directly at (800)777-7623.

*Reviewed by Lucy Warren*

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**Taffy Cannnon**, local author (Carlsbad) and member of San Diego Floral, has written a murder mystery called ***TANGLED ROOTS***. It's set in the North County area. Even if you are not a mystery buff you'll enjoy reading about local flowers and learn a lot about the flower growing business. Published by Carroll & Graf in February, the cost is $19.95.

# SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

by ELSIE M. TOPHAM

IN THE SPRING OF 1984 the San Diego Floral Association owned some 1250 books. These were displayed, arranged by title on shelves running the length of one wall of the office. This method produced a haphazard subject grouping that allowed only limited usage. Although each book had been entered numerically in an Accessions Register, the collection was unclassified and uncataloged. In addition a number of cartons of books, unexamined and not counted, had been discovered stored in a remote corner.

Dealing with this situation became a major concern for Barbara Jones, who was then serving as SDFA president. It was at her urging that I, a new member, agreed to take on the task of reorganizing the Association's library. From the beginning the Board of Directors was supportive, so that necessary supplies were sanctioned as requested and such items as a typewriter, stationery, and a catalog cabinet were acquired as needed.

As a first step, the books on the shelves were inventoried. This entailed much checking, volume by volume, against the Accessions Register. Good news: the final result showed that less than twenty books were irretrievably lost.

I judged that it would be useful to make a survey of books that were of special value. Some were expensive current titles and others were rare and/or out-of-print collectibles. Several visits to the Main Library in downtown San Diego allowed me to consult the files of *American Book Prices Current* and *Book Auction Records.* The resultant information was helpful in determining the scope and nature of the collection and in making plans for classification and cataloging. Extra shelves were ordered including a locked case. This case was used for such special books as the *Genus rosa*, *Tropica*, and *The Masters' Book of Ikebana*. It was too small to accommodate the *Hottes Collection*, and the bound volumes of *The Garden.* These treasures had to be housed elsewhere.

At that time the SDFA library covered a relatively narrow subject field. Gardening and horticulture predominated, although there was some historical and biographical material plus some art books and a strong section on flower arranging. Most of the users were amateur gardeners, ranging from novice to expert in skills and experience. They, and the volunteer office staff (who dealt with mail and telephone enquiries), needed to be able to find information easily.

It seemed best to construct a modified version of the Dewey system. This is widely used in public libraries and it would be familiar to most members. A list of subject headings had been created by the staff of *California Garden*, and it was in use by them as an index tool. This, with some reference to *Sears List of Subject Headings,* became the guideline for the cataloging of the collection. It was decided that catalog entries should be as basic as possible without omitting essentials.

Once the preparatory work was done, the unarranged books were given a call number and the appropriate catalog entries. Many cards were typed by Edalee Harwell, and Elizabeth Glover helped to enter new acquisitions in the Accessions Register. Reference materials such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and files of periodicals were arranged separately.

Throughout this activity more books were being added to the library. Many were gifts, and these were duly acknowledged and reported in the pages of *California Garden*. Sometimes the gifts were in monetary form, and then it was possible to buy selected titles to fill gaps in the collection. A relatively small number of duplicate copies was disposed of, and books of interest were displayed at meetings and at Christmas shows. A small book list was issued as a publicity item. Word of the library spread. More students and professionals came and groups were welcomed and given introductory talks.

The transformation process did not happen overnight. More than a year went by before the catch-up was accomplished. The library was running smoothly and incoming books could be dealt with promptly. By 1990 the collection had grown to 2700 volumes, and it had earned recognition as a significant part of the activities of the Association. □

ELSIE M. TOPHAM has moved, unfortunately, to Green Valley, Arizona.

## 1995 SDFA LIBRARY

The San Diego Floral Association library records are now computerized thanks to Rosaleen Cox. We currently have 3200 volumes including 420 reference books.

In 1993 the library policy was changed to allow all books except reference books to be borrowed by members. The library in the Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, is open for use by anyone during normal office hours.

The library is unique because it has many older authoritative books on gardening and horticulture as well as some about San Diego gardening that were privately published. The newest books are here, too. There are 200 volumes on flower arranging, 115 wildflower books, 116 on trees, 101 on landscaping, 98 on indoor plants, 92 on roses, and 68 on herbs. Many students and plant historians find our collection invaluable. This is the place to find out just about anything about plants. □ STAFF

# SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

*Garden Center and Library - Founded in 1907*

Casa del Prado Room 105 San Diego CA 92101-1619

619/232-5762

*Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California*

**GENERAL MEETINGS**
**1995**
June 5

5:45 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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San Diego CA 92163-1456
Last Tue - Sep/Nov/Feb/Apr
6:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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Pres: Joyce Wilder 436-3036
P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas CA 92023-0005

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2320 Lawton Drive
Lemon Grove CA 91945-3337

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33 Via Larga Vista
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1st Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

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Mrs. Maxine Schimmel 451-3482
18193 Calle Estepona
San Diego CA 92128-1580
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center, Rancho Bernardo

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Pres: Mrs. Lillian Castagna 267-6808
5240 Margaret Drive
Bonita CA 91902-2108
2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor, Sweetwater Road

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Toni Hoppe 435-5669
741 Cabrillo Avenue
Coronado CA 92118-2915

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Amos Cargal (Bea) 422-8970
267 Oxford Street
Chula Vista CA 91911-3352
3rd Wed - 1:00 pm, Senior Center

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Virginia Soderberg 582-7098
6197 Arno Drive
San Diego CA 92120-4628
1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Home of Members

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
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P. O. Box 180188
Coronado CA 92118-0188

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Pres: Mrs. Robert Sheridan 435-1938
111 Alder Street
Coronado CA 92118-2422
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betty Gilliam 749-0039
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center CA 92082-0123
2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Josephine Killingsworth 598-7157
1658 Promontory Ridge Way
Vista CA 92083-5435

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Fallbrook CA 92088

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1738 Castellana
La Jolla CA 92037-3838
2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Dolores Smith 464-2457
7443 Orien Avenue
La Mesa CA 91941-7730
2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive, La Mesa

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marcia Wilcox 488-6467
653 Carla Way
La Jolla CA 92037-8013
3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J.Lutheran Church

LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mildred Digenan
P. O. Box 122
Lakeside CA 92040-0122
3rd Mon - 2:00 pm, Lakeside Historical Church, 9906 Maine Avenue

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Mrs. Gretchen Allen 222-3643
356 San Gorgonio Street
San Diego CA 92106-3342
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields 724-3749
1215 Amador Avenue
Vista CA 92083-5621
4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T-700

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB
Pres: Renate Ritter 945-1287
3538 Turquoise Lane
Oceanside CA 92056-4870
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T8

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda 272-9727
1544 Oliver Avenue
San Diego CA 92109-5321
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. W. Cross (Marilyn) 226-6441
851 Cordova Street
San Diego CA 92107-4252
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby Church

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
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P. O. Box 27
Poway CA 92064-5259

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Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton 756-1554
Hort Chrm: Mrs. Carol Streeter
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club

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5110 Leicester Way
San Diego CA 92120-1242
4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members

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4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB
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9842 Hibert Street #276
San Diego CA 92131-1096
4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library

THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
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6252 Lance Place
San Diego CA 92120-3713
4th Thu - 1:00 pm, United Methodist Church

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1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

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Pres: Haruko Crawford 660-2046
10411 San Carlos Drive
Spring Valley CA 91978-1034

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Jane G. Salomon 452-1059
7730 Revelle Drive
La Jolla CA 92037-3535
4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

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Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 278-5689
2822 Walker Drive
San Diego CA 92123-3056

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
LA JOLLA CHAPTER
Pres: Connie Davis 672-0128
P. O. Box 500765
San Diego CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 am

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3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr,El Cajon

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Pres: Beverly Decker 442-7484
373 Hihill Way
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2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church

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2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado

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Pres: Stephen Johnson 484-5948
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2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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1421 Yost Drive
San Diego CA 92109
4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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Escondido CA 92033-0840
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido

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San Diego CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

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3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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6616 Rockglen Avenue
San Diego CA 92111-4108
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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Poway CA 92064-2834
2nd Mon - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

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El Cajon CA 92020-7742
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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9382 Vons Drive
Garden Grove CA 92641-1156
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens

*HERB*

THE HERB CLUB
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15255 Lyons Valley Road
Jamul CA 91935-3416
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*HOYA*

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San Diego CA 92109-1314
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*IRIS*

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Hazel E. Carson 264-8688
6177 Tooley Street
San Diego CA 92114-1315
2nd Sat - 10:00 am
Casa de las Campanas, RB

*IVY*

THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Susan Peterson
7536 Charmant Drive #1123
San Diego, CA 92122-5043
1st Mon - Casa del Prado

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P. O. Box 1390
San Diego, CA 92112
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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1428 Via Valente
Escondido, CA 92029
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Contact: Estelle Hoffman 433-3344
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3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club

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Pres: Richard Chambers 280-8939
P. O. Box 161020
San Diego CA 92176-1020
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

*ORGANIC*

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1638 Gotham
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3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

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1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

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San Diego CA 92138-6124
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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La Jolla CA 92038-2711

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AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor *California Garden*, Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. Call 232-5762.
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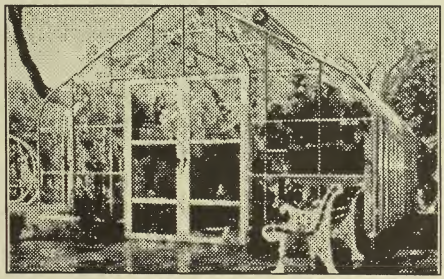

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